

REMARKS

The Specification has been amended. The Drawings have been replaced. Claims 6 and 24 have been amended. Claims 9, 14-21 and 23 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-8, 10-13, 22, 24, and 25 remain pending in this application. No new matter has been added. Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 22, 24, and 25 include allowable subject matter. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

The Examiner has objected to the Specification for certain informalities. In view of the amendments to the Specification, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for certain informalities. Except for the illustration of the anchoring module drive mechanism, Applicants have altered the Drawings to address the issues raised by the Examiner. As for the anchoring module drive mechanism, the Examiner asserts that this is not illustrated, but Applicants disagree. The Specification, at paragraph [0019] states that the “anchor module 150 may preferably contain a motor (e.g., a servo screw motor) (not shown) which, when powered, moves the anchor module 150 along the guide track 120b in a manner similar to that described in regard to the motion of the modular device 110 along the guide track 120. Furthermore, those skilled in the art will understand that any suitable motor or other like drive device may be used to power the anchor module 150. *For example, the anchor module 150 may utilize any of the drive devices and activators described in connection with the modular devices 110 of this invention.*” (Emphasis added). Thus, since the anchoring module drive mechanism may be the drive mechanism of the modular device 110, and since the drive mechanisms for the modular device 110 are illustrated, the drive mechanism for the anchoring module is also illustrated. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the Drawings is respectfully requested.

Claim 24 is objected to for including “sub-steps.” In view of the amendment to claim 24, withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Claims 6 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2, for being indefinite. In view of the amendment to claim 6, withdrawal is requested. As for claim 12, the Examiner questions whether it should recite that the second extendible member should be coupled to the modular device. Applicants submit that the claim is correct as currently written, since paragraph [0021] states “[i]n this preferred embodiment as shown in FIG. 5D, *the modular device 110 may also include an extendible member 154, (e.g., a positioning balloon) for stabilizing the position of the module device 110 during the procedure to enable optimal use of the tools contained therein.*” (Emphasis added). Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is requested

Claims 1-5, 7, and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Richter (EP Patent No. 0976417A) in view of Cohen (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,239) and Ackerman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,802,825). Claim 1 recites that an anchoring module includes a drive mechanism that allows it to be advanced along the guide wire to a desired location. The Examiner acknowledges that Richter does not show an anchoring module, and so relies on the balloon of Cohen. But the Examiner also admits that the balloon of Cohen remains fixed and so cannot serve as an anchoring module with a drive mechanism that moves it along the guide track. For this feature, the Examiner relies on Ackerman, particularly the combination of a sleeve 12 and a balloon 21. The sleeve 12 is slid along a catheter body 11 over the proximal end of the balloon 21 in order to push the fluid inside the balloon 21 to its distal end. Nevertheless, the balloon 21 itself remains at a fixed position on the catheter body 11; only the fluid within it is displaced. Therefore, the effect of the sleeve 12 on the balloon 21 is not to drive it along the catheter body 11 but to shift the fluid inside it to its distal end. Even if the balloon 21 can be characterized as an anchoring module, this action by the sleeve cannot be characterized as a movement of the anchoring module. Indeed, it would be undesirable for the balloon to move further distally in response to the sleeve 12 because it already is located at the distal tip of the catheter body 11 and would thus become at least partially disengaged from the catheter

body 11 were it possible to use the sleeve 12 to move it. Thus, Cohen, Richter, or Ackerman do not teach an anchoring module with a drive mechanism as recited in claim 1. Applicants submit that claims 2-5 and 7-13 are patentable for at least the same reason.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Richter in view of Cohen, Ackerman, and Kindlein (U.S. Patent No. 7,229,401) or Ziegler (U.S. Patent No. 6,971,900). Since neither Kindlein nor Ziegler overcomes the deficiencies noted above with respect to Richter, Cohen, or Kindlein, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Richter in view of Kindlein or Ziegler. Applicants have amended claim 6 to recite that the threaded member includes a threaded hole. Support for this amendment is found at least in paragraph [0017] of the specification. Neither Kindlein, Ziegler, or Richter teaches this particular limitation; therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, and an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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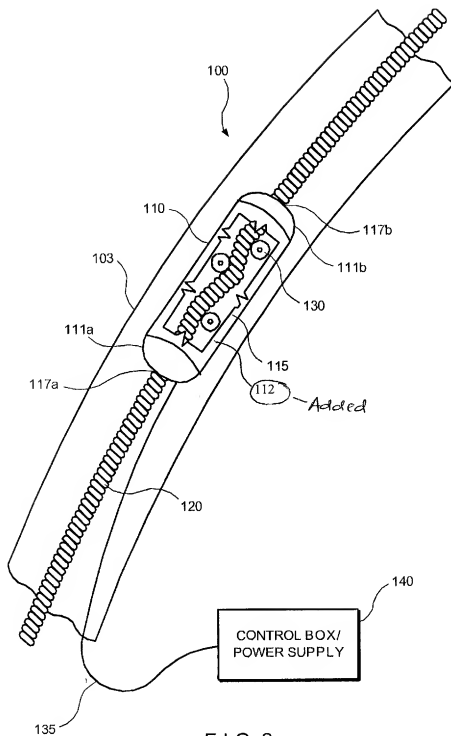


FIG. 2

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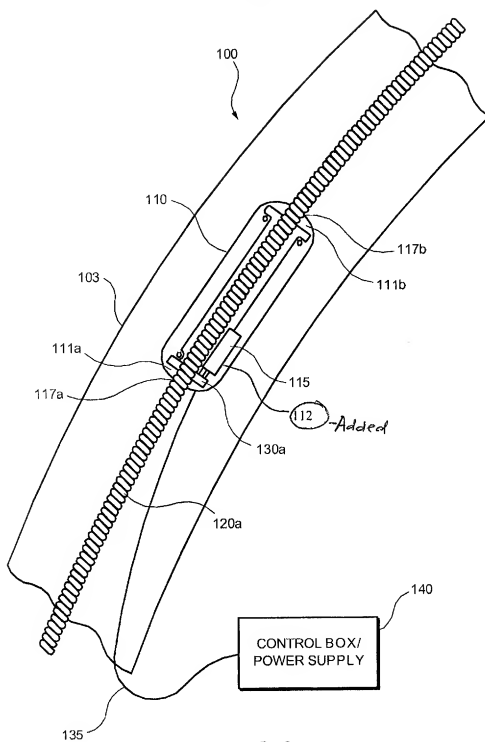


FIG. 3

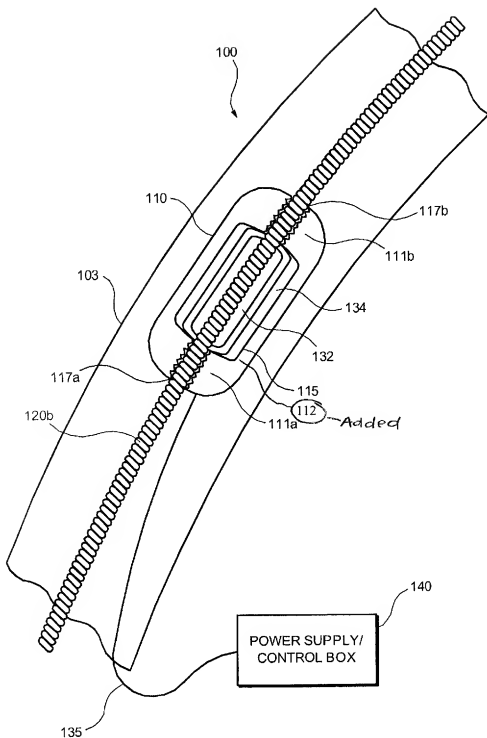
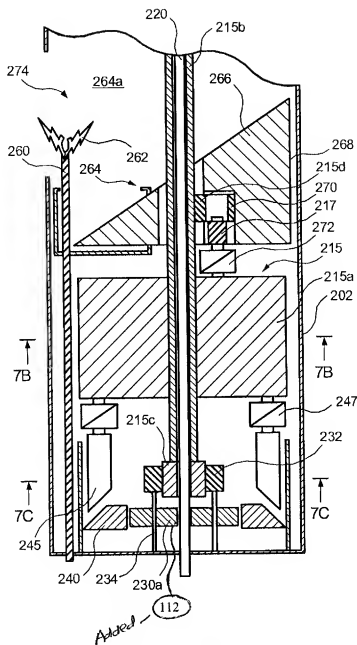


FIG. 4



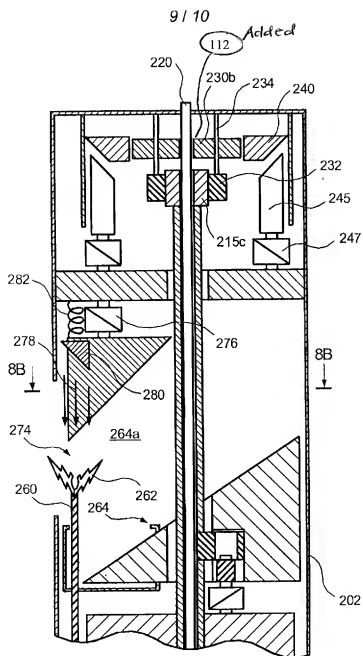


FIG. 8A